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SCIENCE

FRIDAY, JUNE 5, 1914

IDEALS RELATING TO SCIENTIFIC RE-
SEARCH¹

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ONE object of this society, according to its constitution, is to establish "fraternal relations among investigators in the scientific centers." These relations imply changes in ideals as the body of the investigators grows and as its members take higher and higher views as regards social obligations. Our rapid scientific development in recent years may be compared with the great strides in our financial development. It has frequently been necessary during this period to enact laws with a view towards higher financial ideals and more just financial relations. Practises which appeared tolerable when indulged in on a small scale became intolerable when their influences began to extend to wider circles.

Hence it seems natural to inquire whether our rapid scientific development has not been attended by practises which appear more and more objectionable. It is also of some interest to look into the future with a view to learning whether some of our scholarly practises, which do not meet with open disapproval at present, are likely to become intolerable when our scientific life has become much more vigorous and when our universities have become much larger and more influential. At any rate, the investigator likes to look at facts from a variety of different angles, and he realizes the need of considering also surrounding atmospheric conditions.

Ideal research is free search. On the other hand, fraternal relations imply fraternal obligations. The great army of in-

¹ Read before the Illinois chapter of the Society of the Sigma Xi, May 20, 1914.